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LETTER DATED 16 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following message from H.E. Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "Mbinda"
Permanent Representative

95-04762 (E) 170295 210295

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Annex

Letter dated 14 February 1995 from the President of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you and congratulate you on the establishment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) III and express our gratitude for the efforts made by all countries members of the Security Council that contributed to the adoption of such an important resolution for the Angolan peace process.

Therefore, whilst it welcomes the decision with regard to the deployment of the United Nations peace-keeping forces, whose implementation will prove to be of extreme importance for peace in Angola, the Angolan Government cannot fail to express its concern about the contents of the second part of paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 976 (1995), which was just adopted.

In effect, the Angolan Government considers that the request contained in the above-mentioned paragraph is not in conformity with the prerogatives of the democratically elected Government of a sovereign country that has been recognized the right to exercise fully its sovereignty and defend its territorial integrity as well as to have the indispensable means to achieve that objective as, moreover, was recognized, in the particular case of Angola, in Security Council resolution 851 (1993).

Consequently, over and above the difficulties that the Angolan Government encounters in adhering to that request as it conflicts with the fundamental principles of the Angolan Constitution, the implicit reference in the aforementioned provision of resolution 976 (1995) to restoring the already outdated "triple-zero clause" from the Peace Accords constitutes a departure from and is incompatible with the signed text of the Lusaka Protocol, whose spirit and letter recognize the rights and competences of the Government on the issue of national defence and in relation to the need to accomplish the outstanding tasks of the above-mentioned peace accords.

The Angolan Government remains loyal to its attitude of scrupulous compliance with the outstanding tasks of the peace accords and the Lusaka Protocol, respecting and upholding respect of the established cease-fire, and at the same time considers of vital importance the role of the United Nations peace-keeping forces for the implementation of that objective, which constitutes an indispensable condition for the establishment of peace in Angola and the rapid implementation of the humanitarian and social programmes that would make it possible to alleviate the suffering of the Angolan people and guarantee their development and that of their democratic institutions.

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Angolan Government to make every contribution so that the peace process can have a happy ending and, in this context, reaffirm its willingness to continue collaborating closely with the United Nations, in extending all its cooperation so that UNAVEM III may accomplish its mission of peace in Angola in the best possible way.

Obviously, the success of UNAVEM III's mission in Angola will depend also upon the attitude that the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) assumes before the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, and we would therefore wish that the United Nations also obtains the necessary cooperation from that organization.

Allow me to request your good offices in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola